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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of

Applicant

: Sanh Dang Tang

Title

: SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICES HAVING GRADUAL SLOPE CONTACTS

Docket No.

: MIO 0018 V2/96-1138.03

BOX PATENT APPLICATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

This preliminary amendment is being filed with a divisional application of application Serial No. 09/510,413 filed on February 22, 2000, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/019,009 filed February 5, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,143,649 issued November 7, 2000.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the original specification with the filed substitute specification in accordance with 37 C.F.R §1.125. Additionally, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.125, please find attached hereto a version of the substitute specification with markings to show changes made, with additions underlined and deletions stricken. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.63 and 37 C.F.R. §1.125(b)(1), no new matter has been entered.